

2003, his message to Israel and to the international community during his election campaign was mixed. Now that he has taken office, results are to be expected in the form of a clear policy that terrorism and terrorist incitement in any form will not be tolerated within those territories under the control of the Palestinian Authority. I am hopeful, but only to the point of realistic expectation, that Mahmoud Abbas will take advantage of this opportunity and that a lasting peace will emerge.

THE SENIOR NUTRITION ACT

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2005

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. I rise today to introduce the Senior Nutrition Act, a bill I also introduced last year as H.R. 1021.

The intent of the Senior Nutrition Act is very simply to help more seniors get the food they need by changing eligibility standards for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program, CSFP. Among other things, this will help offset the increasing cost of prescription drugs for many seniors.

The mission of the CSFP is to improve the health of both women with children and seniors by supplementing their diets with nutritious USDA commodity foods. More than 400,000 people participate in the CSFP each month, but it is important to note that the majority of these participants—more than 75 percent—are elderly and that number is on the rise.

The average senior citizen pays around \$1,000 per year on prescription drugs. Many seniors who rely solely on Medicare for their health care cannot afford to buy prescription drugs, and are forced to either stretch their prescriptions, or to choose between purchasing medication or food.

The Senior Nutrition Act will provide for the following:

1. In those areas in which the CSFP operates, categorical eligibility is granted for seniors who participate or is eligible to participate in the Food Stamp Program. No further verification of income would be necessary in such cases; and

2. The same income standard that is currently used to determine eligibility for women, infants, and children in the CSFP—185 percent of the Poverty Income Guidelines—would be applied to senior applicants as well. The current income eligibility standard for seniors has been capped by regulation at 130 percent.

Despite the addition of a Medicare prescription drug plan, many of our seniors still need help. We have an obligation to protect our most vulnerable citizens from having to make the awful choice of eating or taking their prescriptions. The Senior Nutrition Act will help protect the health and well being of our senior citizens.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. THOMAS H. ALLEN

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2005

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 17, I was unavoidably detained.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

IN HONOR OF THE AUDUBON CENTER AT ERNEST E. DEBS PARK, LOS ANGELES, CA

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2005

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, it is with utmost pleasure and privilege that I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to the National Audubon Society on the occasion of its centennial year. Founded in 1905 to protect birds from adorning ladies hats, the Audubon Society has come a long way and has grown into a nationally-recognized environmental organization. Audubon's current mission is not only to conserve endangered bird species, but also to preserve their natural habitats and ecosystems. Through a network of bird sanctuaries and community-based nature centers across the nation, Audubon is cultivating a spirit of environmental preservation in our communities.

The recent inauguration of the Audubon Center at Ernest E. Debs Park in the City of Los Angeles, and within my congressional district, is a unique example of how Audubon effectively connects people to nature. The Audubon Center is in the heart of one of the densest urban areas of Los Angeles, with 25,000 people per square mile, nearly four times the city average. Despite this challenge, Audubon has constructed a first-class facility focused on sustainable features such as renewable energy sources, water conservation, recycled building materials, and native landscaping. In the fall of 2003, the Audubon Center at Debs Park was awarded the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Platinum Rating by the U.S. Green Building Council, recognizing it as the most environmentally friendly building in the United States, and the second greenest building in the world. This notable achievement, however, is not the only reason the Audubon Center is special to Los Angeles. Even more substantial is that the Audubon Center at Debs Park is a safe haven for 282 acres of wilderness, 200 species of birds and animals, and for the tens of thousands of young children and families of Los Angeles.

True to its vision of educating the public on conservation issues, the Audubon Society worked for over 10 years to establish a center that would bring nature to the City of Los Angeles. Thanks to the collaboration of public and private funding, Angelenos can today appreciate a unique nature experience in their own backyard at the Audubon Center at Debs Park. Working families, who often do not have the time or the means for nature trips, now have the option of utilizing the educational and family programs offered by the Center. The site is prime ground for exploring and observing nature through its 282 acres of native walnut-oak woodland, grassland, and coastal sage scrub. The 5,023 square foot facility on site, which houses the children's programming and the administrative offices, also offers a unique opportunity to learn about conservation through its sustainable features. The building is supported by a 100 percent solar electrical system completely independent of the electrical power grid serving the Los Angeles area. Recycled materials, including melted down handguns and scrap metal, were used in the facility's construction wherever possible. Sustainable building materials were also used for the interior; furniture and cabinets were made from organic wheat board and organic sunflower board, both rapidly renewable materials and alternatives to wood.

By remaining faithful to its founding mission, the National Audubon Society has accomplished another historic milestone as it celebrates its first century of existence. The Audu-

bon Society has achieved an innovative and unique form of recreation, conservation, and education through the Audubon Center at Debs Park by maximizing nature, technology, and community support. Audubon plans to build similar centers nationwide to continue fostering the spirit of preservation that has inspired the over 12,000 visitors that have walked through the gates of the Audubon Center at Debs Park since its opening.

Mr. Speaker, as advocates, supporters, and friends begin centennial festivities nationwide, it is with great admiration and pride that I ask my colleagues to join me today in saluting the National Audubon Society for its visionary mission of engaging millions of people of all ages and inspiring them to celebrate and protect birds, nature, and life. At 100 years young, the National Audubon Society has much vigor and many ideas to share with all of us. We look forward to the next many years of fruitful endeavors with this great American Institution.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND CHARLIE DOOLEY OF ST. LOUIS, MO

HON. RUSS CARNAHAN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2005

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, my remarks today are to pay tribute to the life of the Reverend Mr. Charlie Dooley, of St. Louis, MO, husband of Lonnie Merl Dooley. Rev. Dooley's life was defined by dedication to his work, his church, and his family. Rev. Dooley worked for McDonnell Douglas Co. for thirty years without missing a single day of work. His devotion to his job was matched by his devotion to his church. He served as pastor of the Revelation Missionary Baptist Church from 1966 until his retirement in 2004.

Mr. Speaker, the outpouring of support by family, friends, and the community made it evident to all what an extraordinary person Rev. Dooley was. His wife, children, fourteen grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren are a great testament to who he was as a person. My prayers are with his family, friends, and community today, as we honor his life.

INTRODUCTION OF THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR AND WAR OF 1812 BATTLEFIELD PROTECTION ACT AND THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR AND WAR OF 1812 BATTLEFIELDS COMMEMORATIVE COIN ACT

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2005

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to introduce two new bipartisan bills to provide more federal support for the preservation and protection of the endangered Revolutionary War and War of 1812 battlefields and related historic sites in New Jersey and many other states. I am especially pleased that U.S. Representatives JO ANN DAVIS, MAURICE HINCHEY, JOHN MCHUGH, ED MARKEY, JOHN SWEENEY, and MARK SOUDER have joined me as original cosponsors of this much-needed legislation.

In 1996, the Congress enacted the American Battlefield Protection Act, which established the American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP) within the U.S. National Park Service (NPS). At the same time, the Congress directed the U.S. Park Service to conduct a comprehensive study of endangered Revolutionary War and War of 1812 sites for